

1 In the claims:

2 1. A system for on-demand computer pricing, comprising:  
3 a plurality of computers, wherein each computer has at least one asset  
4 class, each asset class having a number of monitored assets associated with the at least  
5 one asset class, wherein the monitored assets comprise active assets and inactive assets in  
6 the at least one asset class and wherein the plurality of computers comprise a total amount  
7 of inactive assets in the at least one asset class;

8 a network connection connecting the plurality of computers; and  
9 an auditing system operably connected to the plurality of computers using  
10 the network connection, the auditing system, comprising:

11 a memory that stores the number of monitored assets for each asset  
12 class for each computer, and

13 a notification process that provides a notification when the total  
14 amount of inactive assets in at least one asset class for all of the plurality of computers  
15 changes.

16 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the notification is an invoice.

17 3. The system of claim 1, wherein each computer transmits an audit of the  
18 monitored assets for the computer.

19 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the auditing system generates the  
20 notification if the total amount of inactive assets of the at least one asset class is less than  
21 an expected total amount of inactive assets for the at least one asset class.

22 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the auditing system generates the  
23 notification if the total amount of active assets of the at least one asset class is greater  
24 than an expected total amount of active assets for the at least one asset class.

25 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one asset class includes a  
26 number of central processing units (CPUs).

27 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one asset class includes hard  
28 disk capacity.

29 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one asset class includes  
30 memory.

31 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one asset class includes  
32 input/output (I/O) ports.

33 10. A method for measuring at least one monitored asset belonging to at least  
34 one asset class over a network with a plurality of computers comprising:

1 receiving a quantity of assets of the at least one asset class for each  
2 computer on the network;  
3 summing the quantity of assets of the at least one asset class for all of the  
4 plurality of computers on the network, thereby forming a sum of assets; and  
5 providing a notification if the sum of assets differs from a previously  
6 specified total for the assets for the at least one asset class, wherein the assets may be  
7 either active or inactive.

8 11. The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the quantity of assets further  
9 includes decrypting the quantity of assets.

10 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing the notification  
11 when the sum of inactive assets of the at least one asset class is less than an expected total  
12 of inactive assets for the at least one asset class.

13 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing the notification  
14 when the sum of active assets for the at least one asset class is greater than an expected  
15 total of active assets for the at least one asset class.

16 14. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the notification further  
17 comprises requiring a payment.

18 15. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the notification further  
19 comprises issuing an invoice.

20 16. A method for measuring at least one monitored asset belonging to at least  
21 one asset class over a network with a plurality of computers comprising the steps of:

22 measuring a quantity of assets of at least one asset class from each  
23 computer on the network;

24 transmitting the quantity of assets for at least one asset class for each  
25 computer to an asset database; and

26 receiving a notification if a total quantity of assets for the at least one asset  
27 class for all of the computers on the network differs from a previously specified total  
28 quantity of assets of the at least one asset class for all of the computers on the network,  
29 wherein the assets may be either active or inactive.

30 17. The method of claim 16, wherein measuring the quantity of assets of the at  
31 least one asset class further comprises measuring a quantity of inactive assets for the at  
32 least one asset class.

1           18.     The method of claim 16, wherein measuring the quantity of assets of the at  
2     least one asset class further comprises measuring a quantity of active monitored assets for  
3     the at least one asset class.

4           19.     The method of claim 16, wherein transmitting the quantity of assets further  
5     includes encrypting the quantity of assets.

6           20.     The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving the notification  
7     when the total quantity of inactive assets of the at least one asset class is less than an  
8     expected total quantity of inactive assets for the at least one asset class.

9           21.     The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving the notification  
10    when the total quantity of active assets for the asset class is greater than an expected total  
11    quantity of active assets for the asset class.

12          22.     The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the notification further  
13    comprises receiving a payment request.

14          23.     The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the notification further  
15    comprises receiving an invoice.

16          24.     A method for measuring at least one monitored asset of at least one asset  
17    class in a network of computers, comprising:

18                 grouping the computers into at least one cluster, wherein the at least one  
19    cluster includes at least one computer;

20                 receiving a measurement of the quantity of assets by asset class from each  
21    computer in the network of computers;

22                 summing, for each cluster, the quantity of assets by asset class for each  
23    cluster, thereby forming a total quantity of assets for each asset class for each cluster;

24                 comparing, for each cluster, the total quantity of assets for each asset class  
25    for each cluster with a previously specified total quantity of assets for each asset class for  
26    each cluster; and

27                 providing a notification if the total quantity of assets for a given asset class  
28    for a given cluster is different than the previously specified total quantity of assets for the  
29    given asset class for the given cluster, wherein the assets may be either active or inactive.

30          25.     The method of claim 24, wherein grouping the computers into at least one  
31    cluster further includes registering the computers into the at least one cluster by issuing a  
32    command from one of the plurality of computers.

33          26.     The method of claim 24, wherein receiving the measurement of the  
34    quantity of assets further includes decrypting the measurement.

1           27.     The method of claim 24, wherein providing the notification further  
2 comprises requiring a payment.

3           28.     The method of claim 24, wherein providing the notification further  
4 comprises issuing an invoice.

5           29.     The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the notification if  
6 the total quantity of inactive assets for any one asset class for any given cluster is less  
7 than the previously specified total quantity of inactive assets for that asset class for that  
8 given cluster.

9           30.     The method of claim 24, further comprising providing the notification if  
10 the total quantity of active assets for any one asset class for any given cluster exceeds the  
11 previously specified total quantity of active assets for that asset class for that given  
12 cluster.